



## **MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2018**

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### **Commercial and Recreational Fisheries**

- January 2018 was a rough start for the shellfishing community. First, we were shut down due to cold temperatures and ice, and then the Jan. 4 storm brought a coastal flooding closure.
- Shellfishing finally resumed the second week of January, and ice quickly and surprisingly left the harbor. Wild shellfishing has been very active with dozens of people fishing each week.
- On Sat., January 13, a handful of shellfishermen volunteered to help the department move seed oysters stranded by the winter storm back below the water line into Chipman's Cove. These would have died had they not been moved.
- 156 commercial permits were sold for 2018 totaling \$36,475. 14 more than last year.
- So far for 2018, we have sold 137 annual recreational shellfishing permits, totaling \$9,970.

### **Enforcement**

- Spot size compliance checks continued with wild commercial harvesters with no infractions.
- A "growers only" meeting was organized to address noncompliance with overwintering agreements.

### **State and Town Relations**

- Shellfish Constable and Asst. Shellfish Constable attended Shellfish Advisory Board and Finance Committee meetings to give detailed information re: the department's FY19 budget requests.
- The BOS approved accepting a \$12,000 grant from nonprofit Wellfleet SPAT to aid WSD in purchasing oyster and clam seed for its propagation efforts.
- The BOS signed a thank you letter to Sen. Cyr and Rep. Peake for advocating for state funds getting distributed to counties for municipality propagation programs. Wellfleet will be able to buy more than 100,000 oyster seed with state and county money in FY2018.
- Shellfish Constable attended Conservation Committee hearing on Lt. Island revetment and King Phillip replenishment projects.
- Entire department attended Barnstable County Shellfish Officers' Association meeting and discussed county and state money and 2018 seed orders.

### **Propagation**

- Information was gathered on participation in state quahog relay in spring.
- Conference call with Americorps about an individual placement and booking group work days.

### **Education & Outreach**

- The Shellfish Constable is taking Applied Shellfish Farming course via webinar from Roger Williams University. Classes can be watched online at any time by assistant and deputy constables, as well.
- Three Shellfish Criers were distributed, two to commercial fishermen and grant holders and one to recreational permit holders.
- Shellfish Constable has joined the East Coast Shellfish Growers' Association plastics working group, where she will lend her expertise in media communications and strategies to ensure misinformation about plastics bioaccumulating in shellfish is refuted based on science and fact.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable